

SAFETY ALERT BULLETIN

MOBILE EQUIPMENT

SERIOUS ACCIDENT



On May 31, 2007, a serious accident occurred on the surface of an underground coal mine in Buchanan County, VA. The injured miner was operating a three wheel battery powered personnel carrier traveling from the mine office to the mine portal. The travel route passed through the coal stockpile/loadout area. A contract coal truck driver, in the process of loading coal into his truck using a front end loader, struck the personnel carrier, seriously injuring the personnel carrier driver. The passenger rolled off the personnel carrier and alerted the front endloader operator. Injuries sustained by the personnel carrier operator included fractures of both hips, with the right hip separated and a fracture to the ball of the left femur.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Special safety precautions should be taken when underground mine transportation equipment is required to travel in areas where heavy equipment or other vehicles are required to operate.
- When required to travel in areas where heavy equipment or other vehicles are operating, the operator of underground mine transportation equipment should, before entering the traffic area, **establish visual and/or verbal contact** with all equipment operators.
- Never enter areas where heavy equipment or other vehicles are operating until you have confirmed by either **visual and/or verbal contact** such heavy equipment or other vehicle operators have halted their work/travel activities.

ACCIDENT REDUCTION PROGRAM